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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Spirit, who determines the steps of humanity, keep us in right paths. Deliver us from the detours of pride and anger that keep us from maximizing our possibilities. Guide our Senators through the labyrinth of tough decisions. Give them an ethical compass with which to navigate. Help them to seek You often for the guidance that will enable them to reach a safe destination. Give wisdom to our global leaders that they may live for Your honor.

We pray in Your sovereign Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business for up to 60 minutes, with the first half of the time under the control of the majority leader and the second half of the time under the control of the Democratic leader.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, today we will begin the Senate's session with a 60-minute period for morning business. Following morning business, we will return to the pending business of the Foreign Operations appropriations bill. We made substantial progress over the course of yesterday and last night, and although we were unable to finish the bill, the chairman was able to reach a consent limiting the number of amendments we will handle today. Many of those amendments may be worked out or perhaps not even offered. Therefore, we expect we can finish the Foreign Operations appropriations bill at an early hour today. We will have rollcall votes throughout the day until final passage of that measure.

As a reminder to my colleagues, we filed a cloture motion on the Dorr nomination. That nomination is to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development. That cloture vote will occur on Thursday morning.

There are a number of other important issues we have mentioned over the course of the last couple days, including last night, that we will continue to work toward agreements on. I will keep all of our colleagues apprised as the schedule changes.

SUPREME COURT NOMINATION OF JOHN ROBERTS, JR.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, today in the Senate we will undertake one of our most significant and historic constitutional responsibilities. The eyes of all Americans and of history will be focused upon us. The American people, through their votes, have entrusted us with the constitutional responsibility to provide advice and consent on Su-

preme Court nominations. They have entrusted us to govern as their elected representatives. We must ask ourselves: How will the American people view us—how will history judge us—for the deliberations we begin today?

It is my goal the American people will say, and history will record, that we were fair and thorough, that we treated our Supreme Court nominee, Judge Roberts, with dignity and respect, and that we worked expeditiously to confirm Judge Roberts before the Supreme Court began its new term in October.

Leading up to his announcement last night, the President engaged in a selection and a consultation process that can be characterized with a few words: "bipartisan," "inclusive," and "unprecedented."

The President and his White House reached out to both Republicans and Democrats. He listened thoughtfully to our views and he thoughtfully welcomed our suggestions on potential nominees and on the nominations process. In all, the White House contacted more than 70 Senators, including more than two-thirds of the Democratic Caucus and, of course, every single member of the Judiciary Committee.

The President was not required by the Constitution to reach out or consult. He was not required to take any time at all. He could have rushed through his choice. He could have nominated someone on the same day Justice O'Connor announced her retirement without consulting anyone, but he did not. The President sought input because he believed it was the right thing to do. I commend him for this inclusive approach, which I believe has strengthened the overall integrity of this process.

Now we move to the next stage. Last night the President announced the nomination of Judge John Roberts, Jr., to be an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court.

Most Americans are getting their very first glimpse of the nominee.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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